

REMARKS

Claims 7-17 are pending in this application. By the Office Action claims 7-11 are rejected and claims 1-6 are withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 are canceled, claim 7 is amended and new claims 12-17 are added. The specification supports the amended and new claims at paragraphs [0061], [0062] and examples 20-28. Thus, no new matter is added. In view of the amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 7-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,047,544 to Yamamoto et al. ("Yamamoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,837,642 to Tanaka et al. ("Tanaka"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended claim 7 is directed to a catalyst that includes, in a catalytic coating layer, β -zeolite and 5-50 wt% of a Ce-Zr-Y composite oxide. Yamamoto and Tanaka do not teach or suggest this catalyst.

Yamamoto describes a catalyst for purifying exhaust gases that includes an HC-adsorbing layer comprising β -zeolite and a catalyst layer containing alumina and a cerium oxide composition. The Office Action recognizes that Yamamoto does not teach a catalyst that includes a Ce-Zr-Y composite oxide as recited in claim 7.

Tanaka describes a catalyst composition that includes a Ce-Zr-R composite oxide, where R represents a rare earth metal such as yttrium. The Office Action concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Yamamoto catalyst composition to include the Ce-Zr-Y composite oxide taught by Tanaka. However, Applicants respectfully disagree that the combined teachings of Yamamoto and Tanaka would have rendered obvious the catalyst as recited in amended claim 7.

First, Yamamoto does not teach or suggest anything about the ratio of cerium oxide in its catalyst coating layer. Yamamoto does not teach or suggest that a catalyst having 5-50

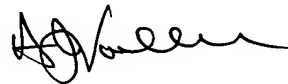
wt% of any type of cerium oxide composition could provide increased efficiency of converting HC-components, CO component and NO_x components. Second, Tanaka does not teach or suggest anything about the amount of Ce-Zr-R oxide in a catalyst coating layer. Thus, Yamamoto and Tanaka, alone or in any combination, do not teach or suggest a catalyst for purifying exhaust gases that includes a catalytic coating layer composed of β -zeolite and 5-50 wt% of a Ce-Zr-Y composite oxide as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 7-17 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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